



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 7, 2009
REGULAR MEETING
City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Sally Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Council Present: Sally Harrison, Randy Parrow, Kevin Hudson, and Cindy Ball.
Brett Costley was excused absent and was able to attend the last quarter of the meeting.

Staff Present: Bob Young, City Administrator; Frank Grace, Chief of Police; Bob Ruhl, Public Works Director; Jeff Bennett, City Attorney; Jim Johnson, City Consultant and Joann Glass, Admin. & Financial Services Manager/City Recorder.

Press: Rebecca McGaugh, The Independent, LLC; Scott Laird, Vernonia's Voice

2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Added to the Agenda Update from the DAD's recycling
Garbage Cans painted
Christmas Cards being sent out

Kevin Hudson moved to accept the agenda with the additions. The motion was second and approved.

3. Mayor Report

A. Permission to place a Logger Memorial in front of the Vernonia Museum

Council tabled this request for the next City Council Meeting. They would like from the Museum Committee a written agreement on who will maintain the statute and who exactly owns and maintains the museum.

B. Amendment 1 to Intergovernmental Agreement by and between Columbia County and City of Vernonia for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Administration. Susan Wagner and Dan Brown

Randy Parrow moved "to accept Amendment 1 to Intergovernmental Agreement by and between Columbia County and City of Vernonia for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Administration. The motion was seconded and passed.

C. Grant Administration Contract CDBG No. D08030 Flood Acquisition
Susan Wagner

Randy Parrow moved "to have the City Administrator sign after review of the City Attorney." The motion was seconded and passed.

D. Unmet Needs Committee (UNC) Policy recommendation to the council for approval of projects requiring steps and decks for grant funding – Dan Brown

Cindy Ball moved "to accept the Unmet Needs Committee Policy recommendation." The motion was seconded and approved.

E. Extension of Office Trailers for CAT-CCFR at Maple and Madison

Kevin Hudson moved "to grant to CAT-CCFR a six month extension for the office trailers located at Maple and Madison." The motion was seconded and passed.

F. Stone Garbage Cans. Mayor Harrison gave a “Thank You” to Shirlee Daughtry for the cleaning and painting of the stone garbage cans around town. They look great!

G. Christmas Cards. Mayor Harrison gave a “Thank You” to Helen Hudson for taking on the project of mailing out the Christmas Cards from the City that Mayor Harrison designed.

4. Councilor/Committee Reports and Minutes

A. Public Works Committee – Postponed until December 9, 2009
Kevin Hudson

Kevin Hudson reported that Brown and Caldwell will make a presentation at the December 9, 2009 meeting.

B. VCLC Committee – No Quorum – Randy Parrow

C. Library Board – Next Meeting December 4 -- Randy Parrow

D. Cemetery Beautification Committee – No Quorum – Cindy Ball

It was decided to suspend for winter the Cemetery Beautification Committee and to work toward getting more members.

E. Emergency Management Committee – Cindy Ball, Chief Grace

Chief Grace reported to Council at the Schools Town Hall meeting, for the remembrance of the 2nd year of the storms. He gave an update on the process of getting the revisions done for the emergency plan. There will be meetings on the 15th and 22nd to review the changes to the Emergency Plan Handbook. A workshop will be scheduled with Council at a later date.

F. Parks Committee Minutes October 21, 2009 – Brett Costley

G. Airport Committee Minutes November 4, 2009 – Sally Harrison. There will be no Airport Committee meeting in January 2010. The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, February 3, 2010.

H. Economic Development Committee Minutes – November 17, 2009
Sally Harrison.

For the December 15, 2009 meeting the Committee will be inviting the Chamber and Vernonia Pride to hear an update on the Main Street Project.

5. Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation

“Persons addressing the Council must state their name and address for the record. All remarks shall be directed to the entire City Council. The council reserves the right to delay any action requested until they are fully informed on the matter.”

Sam Potter questioned the Council on the results of the projects that he presented to the Parks Committee for adopt-a-park program.. He would be willing to spear head a project where students be keepers of the parks. He asked about the maintenance, safety and code of the play ground equipment.

Council recommended that Mr. Potter attend the next Parks Committee meeting with his proposal and the Committee will then report to Council.
Clark McGaugh, handed to Council a copy of an e-mail that he received.

Council asked the City Attorney, Jeff Bennett to write a letter in response to this e-mail and present it to Council for their review.

Sam Waters let Council know that he appreciates all the work that they have done. His concern to Council was that his father’s water is turned off because of an amount that is due, and that he does not believe the correct meter is being read or has been read correctly for a long time.

6. Consent Agenda

Note: The January 18, 2010 City Council Meeting will be Tuesday, January 19, 2010 due to City Hall Closed for Martin Luther King Day.

Randy Parrow moved to accept the Consent Agenda as written. The motion was seconded and passed.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Seattle-Northwest Securities Corp. (“SNW”) plausible and economical financing options for funding approximately \$5 million for a wastewater infrastructure project. Jim Johnson, City Consultant, along with Jonas Biery, Vice President, Seattle-Northwest Securities Corp. presented to Council five (5) scenarios for a summary of estimated financing sources and uses and annual bond debt service for each for funding of approximately \$5 million for a wastewater infrastructure project.

Councilor Hudson asked for a table option for the five (5) scenarios to make it easy to compare.

Jeff Bennett, City Attorney asked for a ten (10) minute recess so that he could speak to the Mayor and Councilors.

Mayor Harrison called the regular City Council to meeting to order after a ten minute recess.

8. Business from Departments

A. Police – Chief Frank Grace

1. Monthly Blotter

a. Medium – Speed Electric Vehicles

Medium-Speed Electric Vehicles must now be registered at DMV beginning October 1, 2009, under new rules (HB2001). A Medium-Speed Electric vehicle is defined as not being capable of traveling at a speed greater than 35 mph. A title must be issued for these vehicles in order to obtain registration and license plates.

B. Public Works – Bob Ruhl, Public Works Director

Bob Ruhl gave to Council a Public Works Update, for November 1, 2009 thru December 4, 2009. The following was reported from the update:

1. The Washington Street Project was completed. The paving that was placed was just an overlay to seal the sub-grade from heavy water intrusion and slow down deterioration of a street that needs complete rehabilitation.

2. Water Rate Study – Further review of the progress and the substantiation of the financial numbers have brought the approach and timing into question. There have been a large number of unpaid accounts that are deemed charge off's and this creates a huge uncertainty with preparing a rate study. Without an adequate way to account for this large number, it is difficult to tell ratepayers how much extra they have to pay for the non-paying customers. Until further clarification the City Administrator has stopped all work on the rate study and notified the Engineer to stop work. Policy direction from Council will be necessary to determine if the utilities are to be run like a business and appropriate Ordinances, (similar to other Municipalities), are put in place.

Kevin Hudson moved “To direct the City Administrator to bring late payments and rental property rules and regulation to Council from other Municipalities to review.” The motion was seconded and passed.

C. City Administrator – Bob Young

1. Homeowner Acquisition Letter – Dan Brown

Randy Parrow moved “to authorize the City Administrator to sign the Homeowner Acquisition Letters”. The motion was seconded and passed.

2. Request for Proposals Real Estate Title Search, Escrow and Related Services, RFP No. TS-2441.

This was for information only to the Council on what is happening

3. RFP Solid Waste Recycling

Bob Young explained that DEQ has determined that DAD’s recycling has to move. Waste Management, because of where they are located, has not been required by DEQ to move. He is putting out a Request for Performance (RFP) for Solid Waste Recycling. Waste Management and DAD’s Recycling are encouraged to respond.

The Dewebbers gave a progress report on DAD’s Recycling:

The property that they want to move their recycling business requires a driveway approach and a road to get to the back half of the property and they are not able to financially make this happen. The work for this approach must be done by certified contractors and cannot be done by volunteers.

By Ordinance DAD’s Recycling is prohibited from being in the location they are in and have from date of flood four (4) years to comply.

3. Water Rate Study Report

Given by Bob Ruhl in his report

4. Emergency Plan Update

Given by Chief Grace in his report

5. Emergency Generator Report

Captain Kay had a requisition for generators and is verifying if this is still an option. Godwin Pumps is a company that we can get generators from and have spoken with them.

We are in the process of getting current contracts with each shelter that we have used in previous emergencies.

9. Ordinance/Resolution

No Ordinance/Resolution was brought before Council.

10. Items from Mayor, Councilors, and City Administrator

Mayor reported that even though the Christmas Parade was short. It was very nice and a lot of people showed up in the bitter cold for the parade, tree lighting and to see Santa.

She watched a very interesting program on Solid Waste Disposal in 2050 on the Green Channel

Randy Parrow – Washington Street looks great. He has been reading a book Oregon’s Greatest Natural Disasters by William Sullivan and Vernonia is mentioned.

Brett Costley – It sure is cold here compared to where he was for the day in California

Cindy Ball – Would like to see increased security at City Hall such as door buzzers, video tapes recordings etc. where needed for the office personnel safety.

Kevin Hudson commented that there had been a lot of talk about money and cost to tax payers at this meeting. He asked what the attorney fees for October and November were just for the Police Department. City Administrator Bob Young let Council know that \$5500 had been spent on attorney fees to date for Consulting fees for the Police Department.

11. Recess to Executive Session as per ORS 192.660 (2)

The was no Executive Session

12. Return to Open Session for Final Action

Adjournment The December 7, 2009 City Council Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2009

Sally Harrison, Mayor

Attest: _____
Joann M Glass, City Recorder

The December 7, 2009 minutes were approved by Council on December 21, 2009.